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January 2011

BEACON

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Foundations

11 Core Truths to Build Your Life On

Does what you believe really matter in everyday life?

Can you answer your children's questions about the Bible?

Want to dig deep into the Bible but don't have time for homework?

Join us at 9:30 on Sunday morning and you will discover what you believe about God, the Bible, and yourself. It will change the way you look at everything. We will look at what the Bible says about eleven key topics including:

- **God is bigger than I can imagine.**
- **God lives in and through me now.**
- **Nothing "just happened." God created it all.**
- **Death is not the end. It is the beginning.**
- **The only true world "superpower" is the church.**

FOCUS Happy New Year

Wow! It's time for the ball to drop again.

I know the years typically move faster when you get older, but I believe having children increases the rate of speed exponentially. Like many children, Caleb and Noah are already wishing their childhood away – wanting to be bigger, faster, stronger and more like the "big kids." Of course, I want to just briefly freeze this moment in time so I don't miss any of the joy and blessing of all that is around me – the setting of my new home, the warmth of friendship, the laughter of children, the love of family, and the beauty of God at work.

I wonder how often God feels the same about us. How often do we run through life yearning for the next "big" thing only to be disappointed? If a fisherman was satisfied only when he caught the "big one," he would not be a fisherman very long. Fishing is about the experience of being on the water and in the moment. God did not create us to live our lives in search of the next big promotion, great party, or new car. God wants us to experience the joy and blessing of our presence with Him.

As I shared in my message the Sunday before Christmas, 2010 has been a difficult time for many of us. Our theme for December was Advent Conspiracy. We were challenged to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All. I'm not real big into New Years resolutions (because mine are usually history before the end of January), but I believe this challenge (worship, spend, give and love) could really fit well into our plans for the New Year.

Worship Fully – Worship is not about sitting in a pew on Sunday morning. It is praising God with your actions and gifts on a daily basis. You can do that with…

- Your family (more sincere blessing at meals, family devotions, family outings, or just enjoying God's blessing of each other)
- At work (How can God speak to you on the way to or from work? What does God show you about Himself through your co-workers or vice versa? Do you have an opportunity to do something more "engaging" with your breaks/ lunch?)
- In your Community (Is there someone that could use a hand, a word of encouragement, or an invitation to spend time with a group of friends?)
- In your Church (What do you do other than sit on a pew at church? Are there things God would like you to do to make a difference in this gathering of believers? Are you so busy "doing" things at church that you can't hear what God is really saying?)

Spend Less – This happened for most of us this year whether we chose it or not. But what does it look like to really choose to spend less?

- Handmade cards vs. store bought
- Homemade gift vs. store bought
- Eating at home around the kitchen table, sharing cooking and cleaning (not letting mom do it all) vs. eating out
- Playing board games together on a Friday night instead of going to movies
- Coordinating family errands so you spend time together and save money on gas
- One family at our church had their children pick out toys they did not play with any more (good condition of course) and place them under the Jesse tree, which leads to

Give More – When we give of ourselves or our talents, it is usually MORE meaningful than if we simply pick something up off the merchandise rack at Wal-Mart. Giving more may also mean giving sacrificially in ways that may not make sense to a non-believer. You may hear just such a story on Sunday, December 26, from someone who gave in support of our Capital Campaign.

Love All – In my outings during the Christmas season, I saw lots of examples of people not loving each other. When we say "love all", we often think of those less fortunate or in need, but God challenges us to love everyone. By "love" I understand that to mean the ability to see through a person to recognize them as a child of God filled with potential and created for a purpose. If we embrace this idea of loving all, it will change who we are as a person on a daily basis. We will become a different person. It may have no impact on some of the people who chose not to accept it, but for others it will be a life line of hope and purpose.

Two Months ago Advent Conspiracy was the name of a curriculum I thought would be cool for our Sunday School and a sermon series. Today, it is the basis for the way several Woodland folks will strive to live their lives in 2011. Will you strive to embrace the journey of life, taking time to recognize the joy of God's blessing in 2011?

Greg

FOCUS IN FOCUS UP

JANUARY 2011

Saturday, January 1
11am Adult SS 2 Brunch

Sunday, January 2
Foundation Study Begins
6pm - 7pm Contemporary

Wednesday, January 5
7pm Choir Practice

Saturday, January 8
6pm Deacon/Spouse Dinner

Sunday, January 9
11am Gift of 100 Years
12pm Finance Committee
4:30pm Worship Committee
6pm Youth on Fire

Wednesday, January 12
7pm Choir Practice

Sunday, January 16
Communion Sunday
8:30am Sunday School Council
TBA Moving Into Action Event
6pm Youth on Fire

Monday, January 17
7pm Deacon's Meeting

Wednesday, January 19
7pm Business Meeting
Choir Practice

Sunday, Januaray 23
8:30am Church Council
6pm Youth on Fire

Wednesday, January 26
7pm Choir Practice

	Acolyte	Lay Reading
January 2	Tyler Ramsey	Tyler Ramsey
January 9	NA	NA
January 16	Clay Umbarger	Clay Umbarger
January 23	Cody Ackershoek	Cody Ackershoek
January 30	Danielle Saunders	Danielle Saunders

ACOLYTE & LAY READING

If you are interested in being an acolyte or lay reader for 2011, please sign up on the bulletin board. If you were on the 2010 list, your name will remain on the list unless you notify the church office to be removed.

GIFT OF 100 YEARS
JANUARY 9 @ 11AM

Come be a part of launching Woodland into our 100th year. We will be reflecting on our past, present, and future.

WOODLAND MOVING INTO ACTION

January 23
Action Teams will be sharing the results of team meetings and how we are going to approach the future. Come be a part of moving Woodland into action.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Faye	Purvis	1/2
Daniel	Blevins	1/2
Julian	Purvis	1/5
Charlie	Murphy	1/7
Amber	Perkins	1/7
Susan	Wright	1/9
Jimmy	Fortune	1/9
Brianna	Fitzgerald	1/9
Madison	Adams	1/10
Bootie	Haught	1/11
Bill	Mays	1/15
Caleb	McCormick	1/16
Jennifer	Purvis	1/17
Bryan	Withers	1/19
Byron	Massie	1/20
Dorothy	Giles	1/21
Brenda	Truslow	1/22
Greg	Crickenberger	1/22
Chris	Fortune	1/25
Jerry	Saunders	1/26
Emily	Willoughby	1/27
Isabel	Saunders	1/31